Waste Management Information

FOR BUSINESSES THAT STORE HAZARDOUS WASTE AND HAZARDOUS RECYCLABLES

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A copy of this document is available for downloading at the following address:
http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/

Alberta Environment
Waste Management Information

FOR BUSINESSES THAT STORE HAZARDOUS WASTE AND HAZARDOUS RECYCLABLES

There are many small to medium sized businesses in Alberta that generate small quantities of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclables. Examples include used car batteries, antifreeze, paint leftovers, spent solvents, corrosives, cleaning products, etc. Proper storage and containment of these materials is required to prevent air, water, and soil contamination. This information sheet outlines the storage requirements for these types of materials.

1. WASTE CONTROL REGULATION

The *Waste Control Regulation (WCR)* under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)* outlines the requirements for the storage of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclables. The difference between a hazardous waste and a hazardous recyclable is that a hazardous waste is a material intended for disposal whereas a hazardous recyclable is a material intended for further use. Information on whether or not a material is a hazardous waste can be obtained by contacting one of the offices listed at the end of this information sheet.

2. STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE/RECYCLABLES

The following are the basic requirements and precautions that should be followed when storing hazardous waste/recyclables.

- Storage containers must be in good condition and not leaking.
- Storage containers must be compatible with the materials to be stored to avoid corrosion problems or chemical interactions that could lead to fires.
- Containers should be closed except when adding or removing waste/recyclables. Containers should not be opened, handled, or stored in ways that could cause ruptures or leaks. Any spills that occur when adding or removing waste/recyclables from containers should be immediately cleaned-up.
- Secondary containment must be provided when storing liquid hazardous waste/recyclables. There must be no openings in the secondary containment system to the area surrounding the system. Secondary containment can vary from simply placing a bottled waste/recylable in a drum containing an absorbent, to an impervious concrete pad with continuous curbing. (For tanks, the secondary containment system must provide containment for 110 percent of the volume of the largest tank plus 10 percent of the aggregate capacity of all other tanks.)
- Containers containing hazardous waste/recyclables must be stored in a structure with appropriate side walls and roof to protect the containers from weather.
- Wastes/recyclables in storage should be inspected weekly. Look for deterioration of containers from corrosion or other factors and document these inspections in an inspection log. Space for access to identify the materials during an inspection should be available.

- Label or clearly mark each storage container and tank stating the identity of the hazardous waste/recyclables being stored.

- Do not store incompatible wastes/recyclables in the same container or in containers next to each other unless a dike, berm, wall, or other barrier separates them. Hazardous wastes/recyclables should be kept separated by appropriate barriers to prevent contact even in the event of a release. Incompatible wastes/recyclables refer to the mixing of hazardous wastes/recyclables, which can result in an adverse effect. For example, mixing strong bases and strong acids can result in heat generation or violent reactions.

3. THE STORAGE SITE

Location of the storage site for hazardous waste/recyclables is important from both a materials management and emergency-planning standpoint. The storage site:

- Must be secure from entry by unauthorized persons. For example, the storage facility should be enclosed and locked. It is also desirable to have storage areas covered.

- Should be posted as a hazardous waste/recyclable storage area.

- Should be equipped with suitable equipment to handle emergency situations.

- Should have designated persons who are responsible for the site and are trained to respond to emergency situations specific to the hazardous waste/recyclables stored.

- Should be designed and maintained so that surface run-off water cannot enter the secondary containment system.

- Storage areas should be located away from sewer drains, manholes, drainage courses, standing water, etc., so that if leakage occurs it can be easily contained and cleaned up.

4. EXEMPTION

The storage requirements outlined in this information sheet are not mandatory when:

- Small quantities of hazardous waste/recyclables are produced in an amount less than 5 kilograms per month if solid or 5 litres per month if a liquid, and the total quantity accumulated does not exceed 5 kilograms or 5 litres at any one time.

Even though small quantities of hazardous waste/recyclables are exempt from the above requirements, the general principles of safe and secure management of these materials should be followed. Note that the exemption does not apply when storing highly hazardous wastes/ recyclables listed in Table 4B of the *Alberta User Guide for Waste Managers*. The *User Guide* is available at the Alberta Environment web page http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/waste.html.

5. APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Generally, an approval under *EPEA* is required for businesses that store hazardous wastes/recyclables and meet the following conditions:

- More than 10,000 kilograms or 10,000 litres of hazardous waste/recyclable is stored at any one time.
- Some or all of the hazardous waste stored at the facility is produced by a person other than the owner of the facility.
- Hazardous waste or hazardous recyclables are stored for a continuous period of more than 365 days, if the facility is only for the storage of hazardous waste/recyclables.

If you are in doubt as to whether or not your facility may require an approval, or if you would like information on obtaining an approval, contact the regional office listed at the end of this information sheet that is nearest you.

6. RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL

There are numerous companies and waste/recyclable brokers that can assist you in establishing a proper storage system and in identifying material recycling or disposal options. A listing of these companies/brokers is available on the Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA) web sit at http://www.esaa.org.

7. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bow Region
Alberta Environment
202, Deerfoot Square
2938 – 11 Street NE
Calgary T2E 7L7
Tel: (403) 297-7602
Fax: (403) 297-5944

Northeast Boreal Region
Alberta Environment
6th Floor, Oxbridge Place
9820 – 106 Street
Edmonton T5K 2J6
Tel: (780) 427-7617
Fax: (780) 427-7824

Prairie Region
Alberta Environment
2nd Floor, Provincial Bldg
200 – 5 Avenue S
Lethbridge T1J 4L1
Tel: (403) 381-5322
Fax: (403) 382-4109

Northern East Slopes Region
Alberta Environment
107, Provincial Bldg
111 – 54 Street
Edson T7E 1T2
Tel: (780) 723-8370
Fax: (780) 723-8386

Parkland Region
Alberta Environment
304, Provincial Bldg
4920 – 51 Street
Red Deer T4N 6K8
Tel: (403) 340-7052
Fax: (403) 340-5022

Northwest Boreal Region
Alberta Environment
2nd Floor, Provincial Bldg
9621 – 96 Avenue
Peace River T8S 1T4
Tel: (780) 624-6402
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